

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

Volume 38  
Issue 1 *Spring*

Article 52

2008

# Almost Impervious

Nance van Winckel

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

## Recommended Citation

van Winckel, Nance. "Almost Impervious." *The Iowa Review* 38.1 (2008): 169-169. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.6430>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

NANCE VAN WINCKEL

*Almost Impervious*

From across the river a last dream  
disappears into the fresh cress  
along the bank, where a woman  
kneels, holding a baby over  
and then in the water. There  
he begins to sense again the silence  
he'd thought he'd exited forever.

How sudden  
the sun. Hoisted  
toward it, he warmed;  
he breathed.

Only much later, in the battles' endless  
repetitions of the spear, would he  
feel once more the rapids' icy pull  
and recall how swiftly a man slips  
out from a god—a split second  
before the white light surrounds  
what shivers, what gleams.